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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR June 1988 September 1988

Seasonal Increase in Unemployment in June-Rate 5.2%

Area's Job Growth Rate Slows—Below U.S. Rate

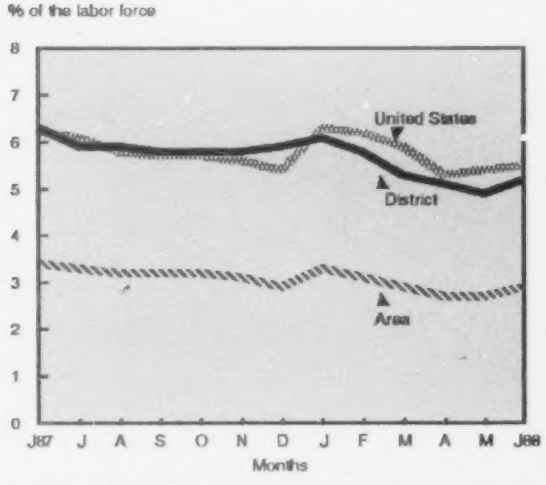
Labor Force

The District

During June, 5,600 additional District residents found jobs bringing the total number of D.C. residents working to 326,000. **This was the largest number of residents working in the month of June since the 335,500 who had jobs in 1973, a decade and a half ago.** However, the June employment increase was not enough to offset a reasonably large increase of 7,100 people in the City's labor force. As a result, the unemployment rolls increased by 1,500 workers and the unemployment rate rose from 4.9 percent in May to 5.2 percent in June.

Traditionally, the labor force expands in June as college students and other seasonal workers enter the job market. Over the past 17 years, the May to June increase in the unemployment rate has averaged 0.7 percent. So, this year's increase of 0.3 percent is less than half the traditional increase. In the coming months, the District's rate is expected to resume its recent decline, once the job market absorbs the June increase of new summer workers.

Unemployment Rates
June 1987 - June 1988



The unadjusted unemployment rate for civilian workers across the United States also increased

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Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR JUNE 1988 SEPTEMBER 1988

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The *Area Labor Summary* is publisned monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson; and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling: (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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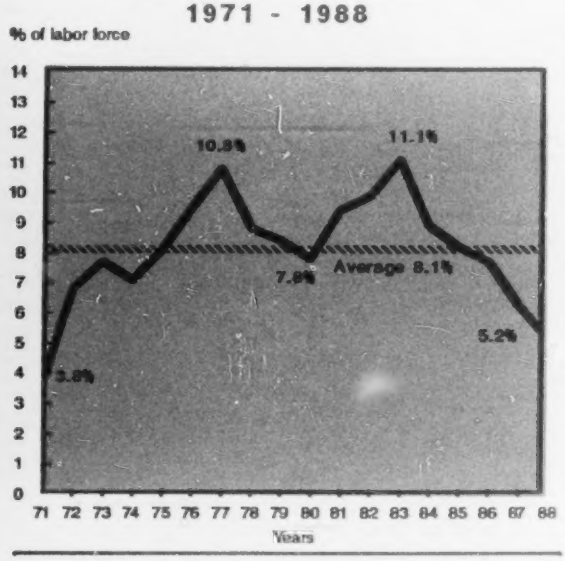
between May and June from 5.4 percent to 5.5 percent. **Thus, the District's rate was below the U.S. rate in June, as it has been for every month this year.**

District Unemployment Rates in the Month of June 1971 - 1988



Since January, 22,100 District residents have found jobs. This employment expansion has been large enough to counter a 20,400 person increase in the labor force, and more importantly, aid 1,700 additional residents in leaving the pool of jobless workers. For the first half of this year, the unemployment rate has averaged 5.4 percent, down nearly a full percentage point from the 6.3 percent average for all of last year.

Compared to June of last year, the labor market status of District residents shows marked improvement. There are 12,800 more residents employed and 3,000 fewer unemployed. As a result, the unemployment rate has dropped by more than a full percentage point, from 6.3 percent in June of 1987 to 5.2 percent this June. A statistical sign of the strong job growth in the District over the past year.

The Area & Suburbs

Like in the District, the unemployment rates in the suburbs and the Washington Area increased marginally in June in response to a seasonal boost in the labor force. Nearly 25,000 new suburban workers entered the job market during June. When combined with the 7,100 in the District, this raised the Area's total labor force to 2,234,100 workers. From this number, only 65,500 were without a job. Thus, the Area unemployment rate for the month measured 2.9 percent. For the suburban sections of the Metropolitan Area, the rate was an even lower 2.5 percent.

Over the year (June 1987 to June 1988), the employment growth in the City and the suburbs was larger than the growth in the labor supply,

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Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	June a/ 1988	May b/ 1988	June 1987
District of Columbia	5.2	4.9	6.3
Calvert County	4.9	4.4	4.3
Prince Georges County	3.7	3.4	3.7
Frederick County	3.0	2.9	3.8
Charles County	3.2	2.9	2.9
Montgomery County	2.7	2.5	2.5
Stafford County	2.2	2.1	2.6
Alexandria City	2.0	1.9	2.5
Prince William County	2.0	1.8	2.2
Falls Church City	1.8	2.0	2.1
Loudoun County	1.8	1.6	2.1
Fairfax City	1.7	1.5	2.2
Arlington County	1.7	1.6	2.1
Fairfax County	1.7	1.6	2.1
Manassas City	1.6	1.5	1.8
Manassas Park City	1.5	1.4	1.6

a/ Preliminary.
b/ Revised.

SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
June 1988 [a]

	June [b] 1988	May [c] 1988	June [d] 1987	May [d] 1987	Net Change From May 1988	Net Change From June 1987
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	344,000	336,900	334,100	330,100	7,100	9,900
Total Employed	326,000	320,400	313,200	309,700	5,600	12,800
Total Unemployed	18,000	16,500	21,000	20,400	1,500	-3,000
Unemployment Rate [e]	5.2	4.9	6.3	6.2	0.3	-1.1
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,890,100	1,865,200	1,802,600	1,785,100	24,900	87,500
Total Employed	1,842,600	1,821,300	1,753,600	1,739,500	21,300	89,000
Total Unemployed	47,500	43,900	49,000	45,600	3,600	-1,500
Unemployment Rate [e]	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.6	0.1	-0.2
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,234,100	2,202,100	2,136,700	2,115,200	32,000	97,400
Total Employed	2,168,600	2,141,700	2,066,800	2,049,200	26,900	101,800
Total Unemployed	65,500	60,400	70,000	66,000	5,100	-4,500
Unemployment Rate [e]	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.1	0.2	-0.4

a Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding.
b. Preliminary.
c. Revised.
d. Data reflects Benchmark Revisions.
e. Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

and unemployment rates declined across the Area. Most of the decline in Area unemployment took place in the District. Joblessness in D.C. declined by 3,000 and by 1,500 in the suburbs, thus, two thirds of the Area's jobless decline took place inside the District line. On the employment side of the ledger, however, most of the increase in the Area's employment (87 percent) occurred among suburban residents. Over the past year, the Washington Area has added over 100,000 new workers to employer payrolls, an increase of 4.8 percent. However, the Area's labor force grew by only 4.4 percent, so the supply of available new workers has shrunk. With June unemployment rates of 2.5 percent in the suburbs and 2.9 percent in the region, these low rates signal a very tight labor market. The current Area labor pool may have difficulty supplying the economy's demands for new workers.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
June 1987 & June 1988
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment
		JUNE 1988	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.4	15.0	27.5
Suburbs	84.6	85.0	72.5
		JUNE 1987	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.6	15.2	30.0
Suburbs	84.4	84.8	70.0

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits totalled 8,110 in June 1988—down 720 claimants from May. In June, 54 percent of all UI recipients were males. Occupationally, clerical and sales, and professional, technical and managerial workers comprised 26 percent each of the total claimants. Services workers registered 21 percent.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 10.4 weeks for all claimants—down from 10.5 weeks in May. Over the month, the duration for males remained unchanged while that for females declined from 10.0 weeks to 9.9 weeks. In June 1987, the average duration for males was 10.9 weeks and 10.0 weeks for females.

Job Growth

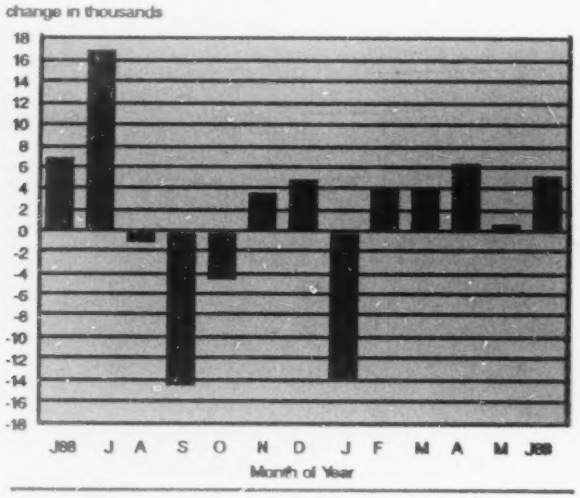
The District

The number of jobs in the District increased by 0.8 percent for a gain of 5,200 jobs between May and June. The private sector was responsible for 44 percent of total growth with a gain of 2,300 jobs concentrated primarily in Services (1,000 jobs) and Trade (600 jobs). Within the Services industry, growth in Business Services (800 jobs) coupled with a primarily seasonal increase in Legal Services (1,400 jobs) was sufficiently strong enough to offset a seasonal decline in All Other Services (1,600 jobs).

The public sector grew by 2,900 jobs as seasonal growth in Federal Government (3,300 jobs) was partially offset by a decline in State and Local Government (600 jobs).

Over the year (June 1987 to June 1988), the number of District jobs rose by 2.3 percent for a gain of 14,900 jobs. The private sector grew at a rate of 3.9 percent for an increase of 15,300 jobs. The leading growth contributor, Services, accounted for 78 percent of new private sector jobs with the growth of 12,000 jobs. The major components of Services growth were Business Services (4,000 jobs), All Other Services (3,100 jobs) and Legal Services (1,900 jobs). Significant Services growth also occurred in Hotels (1,100 jobs), Membership Organizations (1,000 jobs) and Health Services (800 jobs.). The second largest private sector job producer was Retail Trade which supplied 1,600 new jobs. In the public sector, growth in State and Local Government (2,400 jobs) was offset by a reduction in Federal Government (2,900) for a decline of 0.2 percent over the year.

Monthly Job Growth
The District
June 1987 - June 1988



The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs increased by 6,900 for growth of 0.5 percent between May and June. The private sector was solely responsible for the growth with gains primarily in Services (5,900 jobs), Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (1,800 jobs), Construction (1,500 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,500 jobs). The Virginia suburbs were responsible for two-thirds of the combined growth in these industries. Trade increased by 700 jobs as growth in Retail Trade

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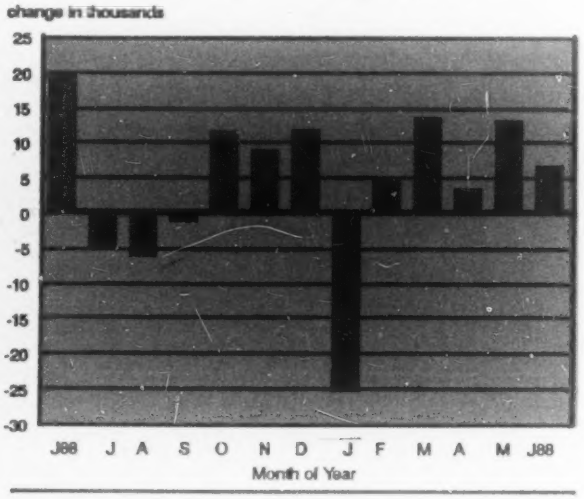
Suburbs

(1,900 jobs) was partially offset by a loss in Wholesale Trade (1,000 jobs). The Virginia suburbs accounted for 74 percent of the gain in Retail Trade while the Maryland Suburbs were responsible for the loss in Wholesale Trade.

In the public sector, a loss of 5,200 jobs is attributable to seasonal declines in State and Local Government (6,200 jobs) which were partially offset by a gain in Federal Government (1,200 jobs). The Maryland suburbs were responsible for the loss in State and Local Government while Federal Government growth was equally divided between the two areas.

Over the year (June 1987 to June 1988), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 2.8 percent for a gain of 39,600 jobs. The Virginia suburbs, with a 5.6 percent rate of growth, were entirely respon-

Monthly Job Growth
The Suburbs
June 1987 - June 1988



sible for suburban growth as the Maryland suburbs registered a 0.1 percent decline over the year.

The private sector was totally responsible for the suburban job growth with the leading job contributors, Services (16,100 jobs) and Trade (11,600 jobs), accounting for 68 percent of new jobs. The Virginia suburbs accounted for all the Services growth and 80 percent of the Trade growth. Eighty percent of the growth in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (4,700 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (4,500 jobs) also occurred in the Virginia suburbs as did all of the Construction (2,400 jobs) growth.

In the public sector, growth in State and Local Government (2,300 jobs) was offset by a reduction in Federal Government (3,500 jobs) resulting in a 0.4 percent decline. State and Local Government gains were entirely concentrated in the Virginia suburbs as were 71 percent of the Federal Government losses.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 12,100 jobs between May and June for a 0.6 percent rate of growth. The private sector was entirely responsible for the growth with the primary jobs contributor, Services (6,900 jobs), accounting for 48 percent of private sector growth. Gains to a lesser extent occurred throughout the private sector with the other major job producers being Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (2,100 jobs), Construction (1,800 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,700 jobs). Trade gained 1,300 jobs as primarily seasonal growth in Retail Trade (2,400 jobs) was partially offset by a loss in Wholesale Trade (1,000 jobs).

The public sector declined by 2,300 jobs as seasonally induced growth in Federal Government (4,500 jobs) was offset by a seasonal reduction in State and Local Government (6,800 jobs).

Over the year (June 1987 to June 1988), the area grew at a rate of 2.6 percent for a gain of 54,500 jobs. The private sector accounted for all the growth with an increase of 56,200 jobs and a 3.7 percent rate of growth. The leading job producers, Services (28,100 jobs) and Trade (13,200 jobs), accounted for 76 percent of all new area

Continued on page 8

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	June 1988 [b]	May 1988 [c]	June 1987 [c]	June 1988 [b]	May 1988 [c]	June 1987 [c]
TOTAL	**673.4**	**668.2**	**658.5**	**2,151.4**	**2,139.3**	**2,096.9**
Total Private Sector	**403.5**	**401.2**	**388.2**	**1,590.0**	**1,575.6**	**1,533.8**
Total Government	**269.9**	**267.0**	**270.3**	**561.4**	**563.7**	**563.1**
Manufacturing	**16.4**	**16.4**	**16.0**	**88.0**	**87.3**	**85.8**
Total Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	42.0	41.9	41.3
Stone, Clay, Glass, and Concrete Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.4	3.4	3.3
Electrical & Electronic Machinery, Equip., & Supp.	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.3	21.3	21.7
All Other Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.3	17.2	16.3
Total Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	45.9	45.4	44.5
Food & Kindred Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.7	5.7	5.6
Printing & Publishing	12.7	12.6	12.1	33.5	32.9	32.0
All Other Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.7	6.7	6.9
All Other Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**
Construction	**15.9**	**15.6**	**15.4**	**137.2**	**135.4**	**134.3**
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**25.1**	**24.8**	**24.8**	**106.2**	**104.1**	**101.4**
Railroad	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	5.0	5.0
Transportation ex. Railroad	N/A	N/A	N/A	48.9	47.5	44.6
All Transportation	10.0	9.8	9.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Communication & Public Utilities	15.1	15.0	15.2	52.3	51.6	51.8
Trade	**65.0**	**64.4**	**63.4**	**428.0**	**426.7**	**414.8**
Wholesale	8.8	8.8	8.8	75.5	76.5	74.6
Retail	56.2	55.7	54.6	352.5	350.1	340.2
General Merchandise	4.2	4.2	3.9	36.1	35.7	35.6
Food	N/A	N/A	N/A	45.2	44.6	44.5
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	39.4	39.4	38.8
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.6	27.7	26.6
Eating & Drinking Places	28.0	27.8	27.4	119.3	117.8	112.7
All Other Retail	24.0	23.7	23.3	84.8	85.0	81.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**38.0**	**37.8**	**37.5**	**130.6**	**128.9**	**125.4**
Banking	7.2	7.2	7.3	23.2	22.9	22.1
All Other	30.8	30.6	30.2	107.4	106.0	103.3
Services	**243.1**	**242.1**	**231.1**	**698.9**	**692.0**	**670.8**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	17.1	17.0	16.0	36.4	36.3	35.3
Personal Services	4.1	4.1	4.1	23.8	23.8	23.8
Business Services	55.2	54.4	51.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process.	3.9	3.8	3.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	33.8	33.7	33.0	N/A	N/A	N/A

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	June 1988 b/	May 1988 c/	June 1987 c/	June 1988 b/	May 1988 c/	June 1987 c/
Legal Services	27.2	25.8	25.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Membership Organizations	31.9	31.9	30.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
All Other Services	73.6	75.2	70.5	638.7	631.9	611.7
Government	**269.9**	**267.0**	**270.3**	**561.4**	**563.7**	**563.1**
Federal Government	213.7	210.4	216.6	354.2	349.7	360.6
State & Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	207.2	214.0	202.5
State & Local Government except Public Transportation	51.3	51.9	48.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Transportation	4.8	4.6	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

a. Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.

Data includes all full- and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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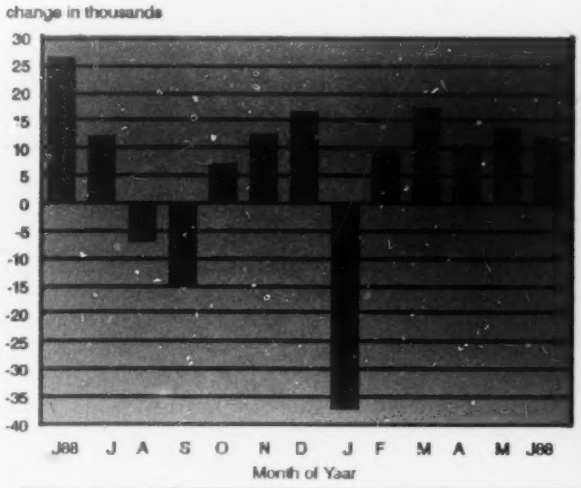
Area

jobs. Significant private sector growth also occurred in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (5,200 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (4,800 jobs) which recorded growth rates of 4.1 and 4.7 percent, respectively.

The public sector declined 0.3 percent for a loss of 1,700 jobs as growth in State and Local Government (4,700 jobs) was offset by a reduction in Federal Government (6,400 jobs).

Monthly Job Growth
The Area
June 1987 - June 1988



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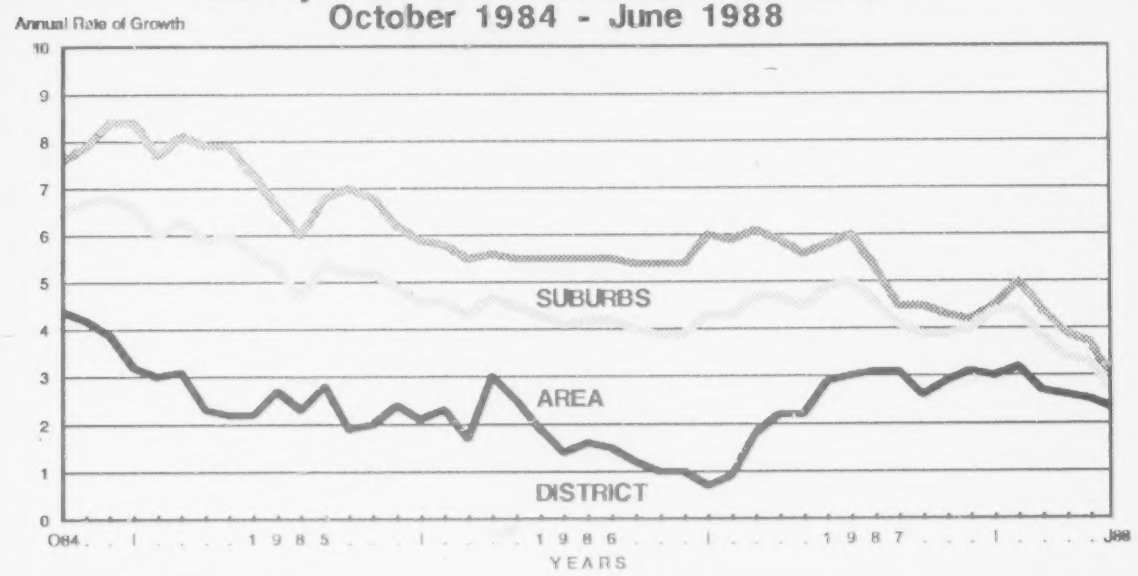
Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
October 1984 - June 1988



Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past 44 months (October 1984 to June 1988), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 4.7 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has been steadily declining after peaking at 6.8 percent in December 1984. Between June 1987 and June 1988, the Area's job growth slowed to 2.6 percent—**the slowest over-the-year growth rate during the 44-month period.**

The Suburban portion of the Area is still the generator of most new jobs, having grown over the past year at a rate of 2.8 percent, but at a much slower pace than its 44-month longterm average of 5.9 percent. Over the past year, the District proper has added new jobs at a rate of 2.3 percent, and like the suburbs, below its 44-month average of 2.4 percent.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from 100,900 new jobs produced between June 1984 and June 1985 to 54,500 between June 1987 and June 1988. Over the past year, 39,600 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy and 14,900 in the District. **The Washington; Area is now creating new jobs at a much slower pace than the U.S. economy (2.6 percent versus 3.7 percent for the Nation).**

Profile of Job Growth Rates
October 1984 to June 1988

The Area	
Average 44 months	4.7%
High, December 1984	6.8%
Low, June 1988	2.6%
Current month	2.6%
The Suburbs	
Average 44 months	5.9%
High, January 1985	8.4%
Low, June 1988	2.8%
Current month	2.8%
The District	
Average 44 months	2.4%
High, October 1984	4.4%
Low, January 1987	0.7%
Current month	2.3%

Labor Force Profile:

The Occupations of Unemployed Washington Area Workers

In the June edition of the Area Labor Summary, LMIR Staff examined the tightness of the labor supply in the Washington Area, the District, and the suburbs. In this edition, LMIR staff profile the occupations of unemployed local workers. The study, thus, provides a statistical picture of the occupational matrix for the limited supply of workers available in the labor market. The information is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' publication, *Geographic Profiles of Employment and Unemployment, 1987*, Bulletin 2305, April 1988). The data is from the Current Population Survey (CPS) which is used by BLS to estimate the status of the nation's labor force. The numbers are annual averages for 1987.

Background

In the Washington Area in 1987, unemployment for all workers averaged 3.4 percent of the labor force. In the District, the unemployment rate was 6.3 percent and in the suburbs 2.8 percent. In absolute terms, an average of 70,000 Area residents were unemployed during the year, 49,000 (70 percent) of whom lived in the suburbs and 21,000 (30 percent) in the District.

Most of the unemployed were experienced workers with a past attachment to a job.[1] For the Area as a whole, 86 percent of the unemployed were experienced workers. In the District, the proportion was 91 percent and in the suburbs 84 percent. Clearly, the Area's pool of unemployed consists mainly of seasoned workers.

[1]The Current Population Survey defines "experienced workers" as those persons with some previous or current attachment to the labor force and who are currently either employed or unemployed. It excludes those with no previous work experience.

Unemployment rates for these experienced workers in 1987 were only 2.9 percent in the Area, 5.7 percent in the District, and 2.4 percent in the suburbs. Another statistical sign of the tightness of the labor market.

Occupational Distribution Of The Unemployed

The Current Population Survey divides experienced workers into eleven major occupational groups. In 1987, unemployment was not significantly concentrated among any one of the eleven major groups. For example, Area service workers (janitors, building guards, food and health service workers, etc.) accounted for the single largest group of jobless workers (12,000), but only 20 percent of all unemployed workers with past job experience. Unemployed professionals made almost as large a contribution with 15 percent. When professionals are combined with executives/managers and technicians, these three top skilled occupational groups comprised nearly 30 percent of the Area's unemployed. On the other hand, "blue collar" workers (craft, transportation workers and laborers) accounted for only about 18 percent of all the jobless. Semi-skilled service workers, administrative workers and sales workers represent about half (48 percent) of all the Area's unemployed.

In the District, the pattern was similar to the Area, but somewhat more concentrated in the semi-skilled grouping of service workers, administrative workers and sales workers. As a group, these semi-skilled workers comprised nearly six of every ten unemployed in the Area. Interestingly, unemployed District executives/managers and professionals accounted for exactly the same share of the total unemployed as laborers and sales workers (10.5 percent each).

In the suburbs, both professionals and service workers tied for the highest level of unemployed at 17 percent each. In general, the occupations of unemployed suburban workers tended to be slightly more skilled than in the District with executive/managerial and technical workers making up nearly 30 percent of all the suburban unemployed *vs* 20 percent in the City. On the

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Labor Force Profile

Continued from page 10

other hand, unemployed sales workers were proportionately larger in the suburbs and administrative workers relatively more numerous in the District. Furthermore, blue collar workers as a proportion of all the unemployed were more numerous in the District than in the suburbs (21 percent in the District *vs* 17 percent in the suburbs). In absolute numbers, however, for all eleven major occupations the largest pool of unemployed workers resided in the suburbs.

Occupational Unemployment Rates

The above analysis examined the occupational relationship of unemployed workers to the *total* pool of all unemployed workers. This section examines the relative level of unemployment *within* each occupational group. Thus, this section represents a statistical measurement of labor shortages in a given occupational group.

For the Area as a whole, as well as for the suburbs, low unemployment rates for all experienced workers signals a general shortage of available workers. The rate in the District, on the other hand, indicates a more fluid supply of labor. However, the District's rate for the first half of this year has declined fairly steeply, from 6.1 percent in January to 5.2 percent in June. Thus, even in the District, the labor supply of seasoned workers is tightening.

Among the eleven major occupational groups, four groups—executive/managerial, professional, administrative, and technical workers—had unemployment rates which where *less* than the average rate for each jurisdiction, thus, indicating shortage occupations. Technicians, with an Area unemployment rate of only 0.9 percent, statistically represented the group with the severest shortage.

One other major occupational category, craft worker, had an unemployment rate that was less than the average for the Area (2.4 percent) and the suburbs (2.1 percent), but a rate (6.8 percent) in the District above the average. Thus, in the District, there was a surplus of craft workers while in the suburbs a shortage. Market conditions should work to adjust this difference, if employers expand recruitment in the City and City craft workers are able to reach suburban work sites. However, even in this situation, most of the unemployed craft workers (3,000) live in the suburbs, as opposed to the City (1,000).

Across the Metropolitan Area, four occupations in 1987 produced unemployment rates *above* the average—laborers (8.2 percent), service workers (5.2 percent), sales workers (4.2 percent) and transportation workers (3.2 percent). One of these occupational groups, transportation workers, had above average unemployment in the Area and the District, but a lower than average rate in the suburbs. As a group, semi-skilled and unskilled workers tended to experience proportionately more unemployment across all of the Area; however, the general supply of all workers was relatively tight. For example, while laborers registered a high unemployment rate, they represented only a small proportion (8 percent) of total unemployment in the Area.

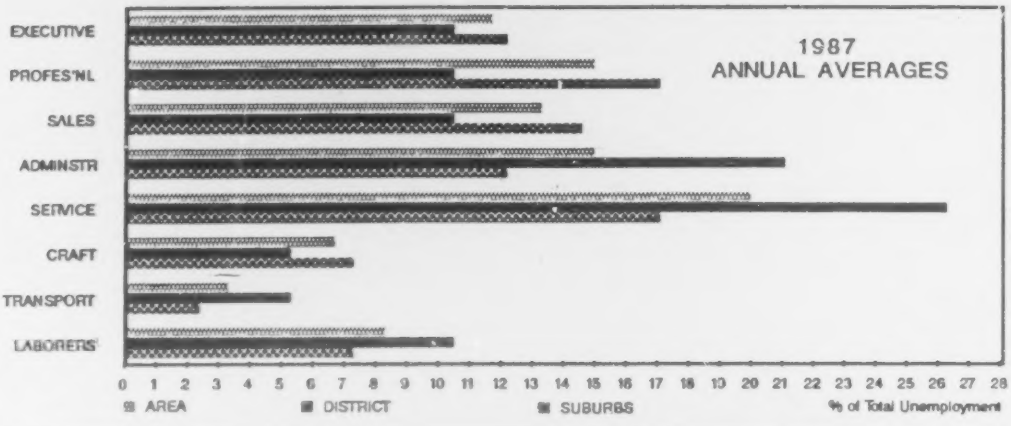
Observations

The total pool of unemployed people in the Washington Area is relatively small compared to the size of the Area's labor force. While unemployment in the District tends to be more concentrated, most of the unemployed workers actually live in the suburbs. Furthermore, unemployment in the Washington Area tends to be relatively evenly spread across the whole occupational spectrum, although persons whose occupations are semi-skilled or unskilled are more likely to be unemployed than persons with advanced training. In fact, low unemployment rates among executives/managers, professionals and technicians tend to signal a shortage of these more skilled workers, as it also does for administrative and craft workers.

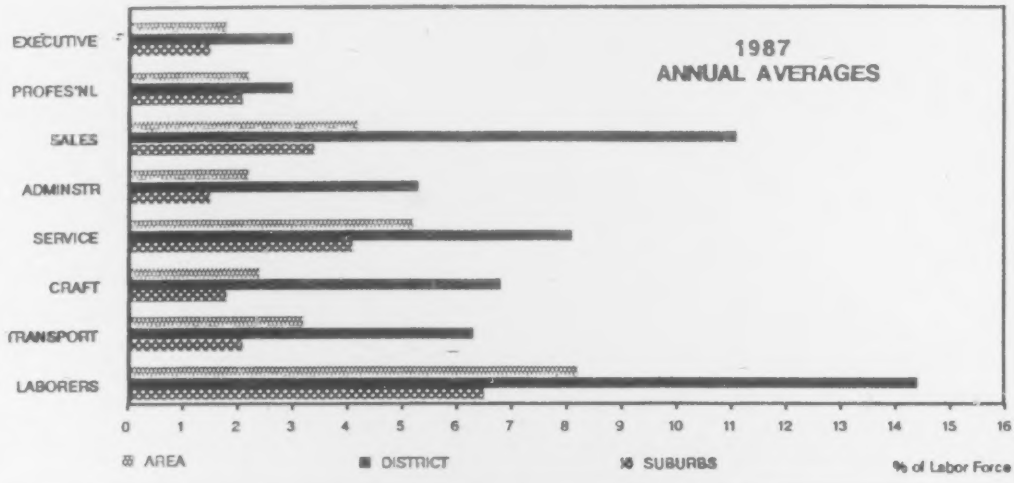
Among the less skilled service, sales, transportation workers and laborers, as well as administrative workers, there may be barriers that are pre-

Continued on page 14

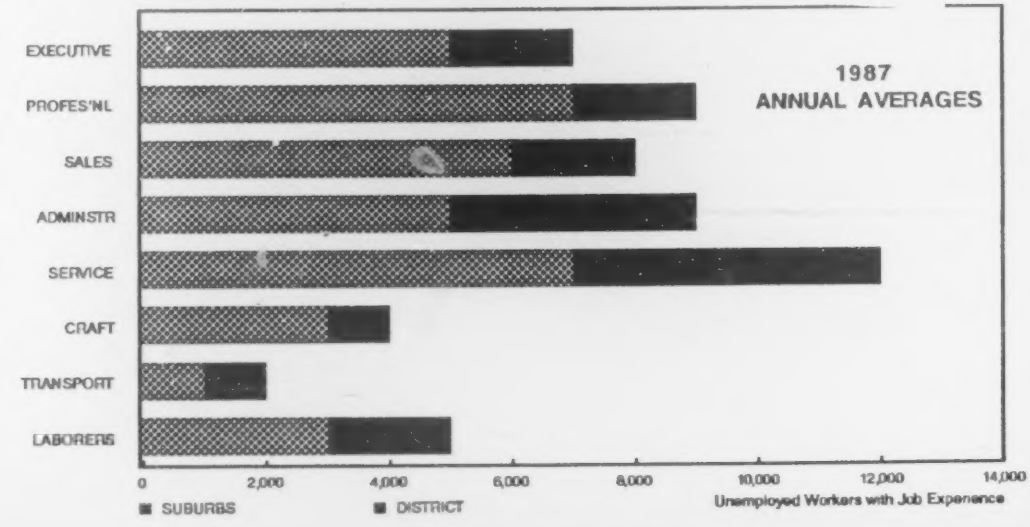
Occupational Distribution of Experienced Unemployed



Occupational Unemployment Rates for Experienced Workers



Occupations of Unemployed Workers in Area



Occupations of the Experienced Unemployed: the Washington Area, the District and the Suburbs 1987

(annual averages)

	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Distribution	
			Percent	Rate
Washington Area:				
Total	2,064,000	60,000	100.0	2.9
Executives	388,000	7,000	11.7	1.8
Professionals	399,000	9,000	15.0	2.2
Technicians	96,000	1,000	1.7	0.9
Sales	199,000	8,000	13.3	4.2
Administrative	396,000	9,000	15.0	2.2
Service	231,000	12,000	20.0	5.2
Craft	179,000	4,000	6.7	2.4
Operators	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation	61,000	2,000	3.3	3.2
Laborers	57,000	5,000	8.3	8.2
The District:				
Total	331,000	19,000	100.0	5.7
Executives	51,000	2,000	10.5	3.0
Professionals	65,000	2,000	10.5	3.0
Technicians	14,000	N/A	N/A	1.3
Sales	22,000	2,000	10.5	11.1
Administrative	71,000	4,000	21.1	5.3
Service	62,000	5,000	26.3	8.1
Craft	16,000	1,000	5.3	6.8
Operators	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation	13,000	1,000	5.3	6.3
Laborers	11,000	2,000	10.5	14.4
The Suburbs:				
Total	1,733,000	41,000	100.0	2.4
Executives	337,000	5,000	12.2	1.5
Professionals	334,000	7,000	17.1	2.1
Technicians	82,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sales	177,000	6,000	14.6	3.4
Administrative	325,000	5,000	12.2	1.5
Service	169,000	7,000	17.1	4.1
Craft	163,000	3,000	7.3	1.8
Operators	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation	48,000	1,000	2.4	2.1
Laborers	46,000	3,000	7.3	6.5

N/A=Information did not meet publication standards.

SOURCE: Current Population Survey. Table prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff. Detail may not add to total due to independent rounding.

Typical Jobs in Major Occupational Groups
Washington Metropolitan Area

EXECUTIVE/MANAGERIAL:
Chief executives
Proprietors
Sales managers
Administrators
School administrators
Store managers

PROFESSIONALS:
Engineers
Biologists
Physicists
Mathematicians
Dentists
Nurses
Physicians
Computer specialists
Economists
Lawyers
Teachers
Writers and entertainers
Social workers

TECHNICIANS:
Drafters
Electronic technicians
Mechanical engineering technicians
Medical lab technologists
Dental assistants
Licensed practical nurses
Radiologic technologist

SALES WORKERS:
Sales clerks
Sales representatives
Insurance agents
Real estate agents
Stock and bond salespersons

ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS:
Secretaries
Typists
Office machine operators
Computer operators
Bank tellers
Bookkeepers
Cashiers
Order clerks
File clerks
Payroll clerks
Receptionists
Shipping/receiving clerks
Stock clerks
Teacher aides
General office clerks

SERVICE WORKERS:
Janitors, porters & cleaners
Food service workers
Cooks
Waiters & waitresses
Health aides
Cosmetologists
Guards
Police & Fire Workers
Private household workers

TRANSPORTATION WORKERS:
Truck drivers
Taxi cab drivers
Bus drivers
Parking lot attendants

CRAFT WORKERS:
Carpenters
Bricklayers
Cement masons
Electricians
Painters
Auto mechanics
Printing trades
Stationary engineers
Telephone installers

LABORERS:
Construction laborers
Garbage collectors
Gardners
Stock handlers
Trade helpers

Continued from page 11

venting market adjustments from occurring. For economic reasons, low wage workers do not travel long distances to work without inexpensive transportation and day care services. Conversely, high costs for housing may preclude their living near available work. In a tight labor market, governments and employers must address all the barriers to labor mobility to assure an adequate work force.

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In May 1988, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 247 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. Historically, the Washington Area's jobless rate generally declines between April and May. The May rate at 2.7 was unchanged from April. The rate had declined 0.2 percentage point in February, March, and April. This was the twentieth lowest rate of all 247 areas reporting. A year ago, the rate was 3.1 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 2.7 percent was higher than the Boston area's at 2.3 percent. In March, the Washington rate was lower than the Boston rate for the first time since September 1986. In April, it was 0.2 percentage point higher. A year ago, the Boston rate was 2.9 percent. The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, reported a May jobless rate of 3.3 percent, up from 3.1 percent in April. The Richmond-Petersburg Area's rate of 3.3 percent is only a fraction, 0.6 percentage point higher than Washington's. A year ago, the Richmond-Petersburg Area's rate was 3.7 percent. The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, recorded a 4.5 percent jobless rate in May, up from 4.3 percent in April. A year ago, the Baltimore Area's rate was also 4.5 percent.

States

When The District of Columbia (with a May preliminary unemployment rate of 4.9 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the twenty-seventh lowest jobless rate in the country. This was three notches below the April standing. Maryland's rate rose from 4.0 percent in April to 4.1 percent in May. Virginia's rate also rose, increasing from 3.5 percent to 3.6 percent. Maryland and Virginia ranked thirty-second and fortieth, respectively, in the standing of the 51 jurisdictions.

Of the states reporting over-the-year declines in unemployment rates for May, more than half reported decreases of 1 percentage point or more. The largest drops were in Mississippi and Wyoming (2.8 percentage points each) and Alaska (2.1 points).

Unemployment rates were below the national average throughout the east coast (except Georgia) and the northern plains states. Higher than average rates generally prevailed in the western states down through the southwest and gulf coast. Five of the six New England states had rates below 3 percent, with New Hampshire continuing to have the nation's lowest, at 2.1 percent. Only one state had a rate in double digits—Louisiana (10.5 percent).

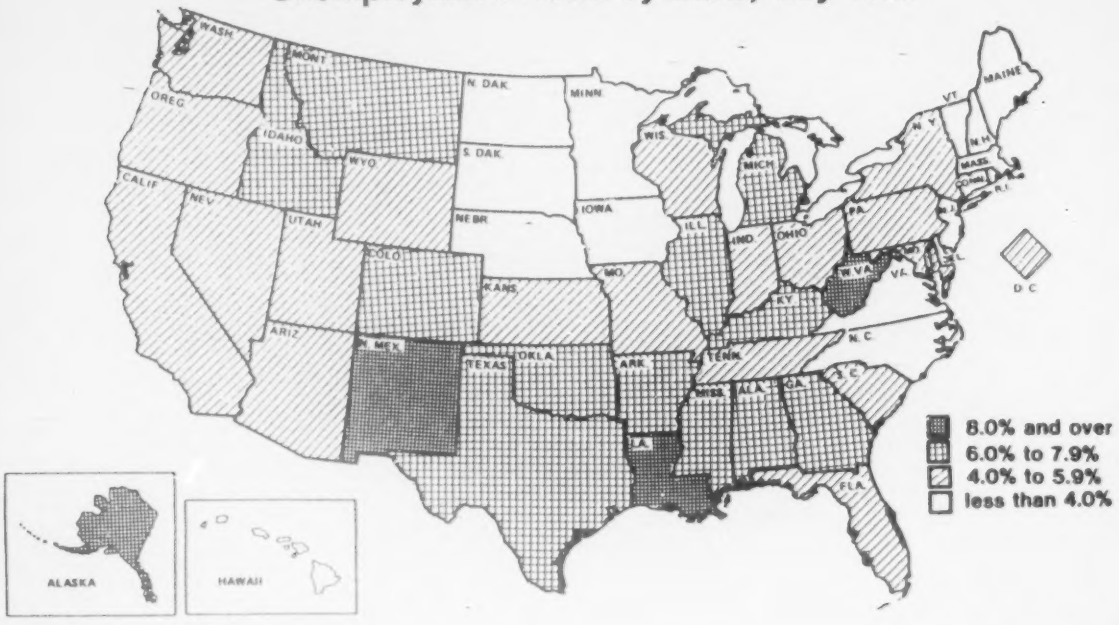
Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a May preliminary rate of 4.9 percent) had the fifth lowest jobless rate. This was up from the seventh lowest position held in April. In May, the average unemployment rate of all 26 cities was 6.5 percent down from 6.8 percent reported in April. There were nine cities including the District of Columbia with rates below 6 percent. Baltimore's rate at 6.9 percent was up from the 6.8 percent reported in April. In May 1987, the Baltimore rate was 7.0 percent.

For the first time in years, no double digit jobless rates were recorded in May. Only eleven cities had jobless rates above 8 percent. Of those 11 cities, the highest rates recorded were in New Orleans (9.8 percent), Detroit (9.6 percent), and Gary (9.4 percent). Since February, Boston, New York and San Francisco have reported the

Continued on page 16

Unemployment Rates by State, May 1988



Continued from page 15

lowest unemployment rates of the selected cities. In May, the rates were 2.9 percent, 4.7 percent, and 4.7 percent, respectively. Pittsburgh posted a 4.8 percent jobless rate. Of the 26 selected central cities, twenty-two reported over-the-year declines, with the largest being posted by Gary (5.9 percent), followed by Houston (2.5 percent), and St. Louis (2.3 percent). No increase amounted to 0.5 percentage point.

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Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities*

	May	
	1988*	1987
1. Boston, MA	2.9	3.5
2. New York, NY	4.7	5.4
3. San Francisco, CA	4.7	4.3
4. Columbus, OH	4.8	5.7
5. District of Columbia	**4.9**	**6.2**
6. Milwaukee, WI	5.0	6.9
7. Salt Lake City, UT	5.3	6.4
8. Pittsburgh, PA	5.4	6.0
9. Los Angeles, CA	5.8	7.1
10. Philadelphia, PA	6.1	5.8
11. Miami, FL	6.3	7.1
12. Dallas, TX	6.6	7.3
13. Cincinnati, OH	6.6	7.0
14. Buffalo, NY	6.9	7.5
15. Baltimore, MD	6.9	7.0
16. St. Louis, MO	7.2	9.5
17. Dayton, OH	7.4	9.1
18. Houston, TX	7.6	10.1
19. Birmingham, AL	7.9	8.5
20. Atlanta, GA	8.0	7.8
21. Newark, NJ	8.1	9.2
22. Chicago, IL	8.2	9.3
23. Cleveland, OH	8.4	9.4
24. Gary, IN	9.4	15.3
25. Detroit, MI	9.6	11.6
26. New Orleans, LA	9.8	10.6

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Insurance Activities June 1988

All unemployment insurance indicators of workload and outlay rose from May to June 1988 for the combined programs. Virtually the same phenomenon occurred in the change from May to June in 1987 and 1986. In those years, all measures increased except total beneficiaries. May has been a "low point" in activity in the first half of the year at least since 1985. Compared to last year, the 1988 magnitude of the monthly change was approximately one half that of 1987. There were 2,910 initial claims taken for benefits in June 1988, and the gross outlay was $6.4 million.

The overall trend in activity continues on a downward path. During the April-June quarter of 1987, there were nearly 4,100 less weeks compensated than in 1986. The weeks compensated decrease stood at 12,300 in the 1987-88 comparable period, and with it came an accompanying $1.3 million drop in the total outlay. This marks the first time since 1985 when these comparisons began that the quarterly outlay dropped. With the increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount and its accompanying scale effective in January 1986, outlay has steadily increased even if there was a slight decrease in compensated weeks.

In the current year comparison, the dip in the compensated workload more than offset the increase in the average weekly benefit amount.

The same pattern exists in comparing the first half of the year. Weeks compensated were down less than 300 from the first half of 1986 to 1987; but the next year, weeks plunged more than 25,000, and outlay $2.5 million.

A corroborative statistic for the downward trend in unemployment compensated weeks is the unemployment rate, which has been steadily decreasing in Washington and the Metropolitan Area since 1982.

Weeks Compensated, Total and Average Weekly Unemployment Compensation Outlays
Quarterly and Semi-Annual Periods
District of Columbia
1986, 1987 and 1988

	JANUARY-JUNE			CHANGE	
	1986	1987	1988	86-87	87-88
Weeks Compensated	231,190	230,916	205,752	-274	-25,165
Total Outlay	$36,688,473	$40,080,578	$37,542,182	+3,392,105	-$2,538,396
Average Weekly Benefit	$158.69	$173.57	$182.46	+$14.88	+$8.89
	APRIL-JUNE				
Weeks compensated	113,785	109,686	97,375	-4,099	-12,311
Total Outlay	$18,485,258	$19,304,700	$17,973,153	+$819,442	-$1,331,547
Average Weekly Benefit	$162.46	$176.00	$184.58	+$13.54	+$8.58

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
June 1988

	June 1988	May 1988	June 1987	%Change From May 1988	%Change From June 1987
State UI Program [a]					
Initial Claims Taken	2,752	2,529	2,580	+8.8	-7.7
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	33,299	30,611	35,354	+8.8	-5.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	31,758	29,351	35,197	+8.2	-9.8
Total Benefits Paid	$5,890,979	$5,377,576	$6,198,359	+9.5	-5.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$185.50	$183.22	$176.10	+1.2	+5.3
Number of First Payments	1,468	1,368	1,692	+7.3	-13.2
Number of Final Payments	924	798	974	+15.8	-5.1
Total Beneficiaries	8,409	8,412	9,092	-0.0	-7.5
Federal Program [b]					
Initial Claims Taken	108	110	105	-1.8	+2.9
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,104	1,912	2,608	+10.0	-19.3
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	2,012	1,807	2,597	+11.3	-22.5
Total Benefits Paid	$418,037	$366,443	$525,765	+14.1	-20.5
Average Weekly Benefit Paymen	$207.77	$202.79	$202.45	+2.5	+2.6
Number of First Payments	113	94	104	+20.2	+8.7
Number of Final Payments	53	61	67	-13.1	-20.9
Total Beneficiaries	528	525	673	+0.6	-21.5
Ex-Servicepersons Program [c]					
Initial Claims Taken	51	52	51	-1.9	+0.0
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	551	459	629	+20.0	-12.4
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	482	346	560	+39.3	-13.9
Total Benefits Paid	$92,584	$67,547	$109,070	+37.1	-15.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$192.08	$195.22	$190.68	-1.6	+0.7
Number of First Payments	46	57	43	-19.3	+7.0
Number of Final Payments	27	15	30	+80.0	-10.0
Total Beneficiaries	143	121	154	+18.2	-7.1
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	2,911	2,691	3,136	+8.2	-7.2
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	35,954	32,982	38,591	+9.0	-6.8
Weeks of Unemployment compensated	34,252	31,504	38,354	+8.7	-10.7
Total Benefits Paid	$6,401,600	$5,811,566	$6,833,194	+10.2	-6.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$186.90	$184.47	$178.16	+1.3	+4.9
Number of First Payments	1,627	1,519	1,839	+7.1	-11.5
Number of Final Payments	1,004	874	1,071	+14.9	-6.3
Total Beneficiaries	9,080	9,058	9,919	+0.2	-8.5

a. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
b. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
c. No joint claims.

Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for the month of June rose $1.77. Average Weekly Hours increased 0.3 hour. Average Hourly Earnings, however, decreased 4 cents.

In the Durable Goods sector, Electric Machinery Equipment and Supplies registered an increase in Weekly Earnings of $11.15. This reflects an increase in Weekly Hours (0.6 hour) and Hourly Earnings (10 cents) resulting from more overtime being worked.

In the Non-Durable Goods sector, Food and Kindred Products' Average Weekly Earnings increased $12.11 and Hourly Earnings increased 42 cents. Both were a result of seasonal increases. Less overtime was responsible for a 24 cents decrease in Hourly Earnings in Printing and Publishing. Other Non-Durable Goods Weekly Earnings rose $10.91 as Weekly Hours increased 1.1 hours due to a longer scheduled workweek.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
June 1988

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June 1988	May 1988	June 1987	June 1988	May 1988	June 1987	June 1988	May 1988	June 1987
Total Manufacturing	444.96	443.19	414.62	39.8	39.5	39.3	11.18	11.22	10.55
Durable Goods	453.84	454.07	392.18	42.1	42.2	41.5	10.78	10.76	9.45
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	512.30	519.93	449.77	47.0	47.7	44.4	10.90	10.90	10.13
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	493.00	481.85	411.27	42.5	41.9	40.4	11.60	11.50	10.18
Other Durable Goods	415.13	419.02	359.77	40.5	40.8	41.4	10.25	10.27	8.69
Non-durable Goods	437.75	434.96	432.00	37.9	37.4	37.5	11.55	11.63	11.52
Food & Kindred Products	443.35	431.24	489.57	39.2	39.6	39.9	11.31	10.89	12.27
Printing & Publishing	465.40	466.05	444.28	35.8	35.2	35.8	13.00	13.24	12.41
Other Non-durable Goods	349.09	338.18	350.99	43.8	42.7	41.1	7.97	7.92	8.54

Total Production Workers	June '88	May'88	June '87
	42,300	42,400	43,600

Note: Data reflects Revision to 1987 Benchmark.

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